

EDUCATION WEEK

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History's Legacy In the Rural South

In Alabama's Marengo County, a 987-square-mile expanse of forests and rolling pastures far from the metropolitan "New South," the geography of school reform begins with these topographical features: impoverished students, antiquated facilities, and a white community that has virtually abandoned the public schools. A report on the Marengo County School District's struggle to change begins on page 7.



Bennett Asks Congress To Put Curb On 'Exploitative' For-Profit Schools

By Robert Rothman

WASHINGTON—Secretary of Education William J. Bennett last week urged the Congress to adopt stiff measures to curb the "shameful and tragic" abuse of student financial-aid programs by proprietary schools.

He suggested that such measures might include making a high-school diploma or its equivalent a requirement for aid.

In a letter to Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, chairman of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, Mr. Bennett released a new department-funded report and other previously published

documents that he said gave clear evidence of a pattern of "exploitative and deceitful practices" by the for-profit career schools.

"You will find accounts of semi-literate high-school dropouts lured to enroll in expensive training programs with false hopes for a better future cruelly dashed," he wrote. "You will read of falsified scores on entrance exams, poor-quality training, and harsh refund policies."

"The pattern of abuses revealed in these documents is an outrage perpetrated not only on the American taxpayer but, most tragically, upon some of the most disadvantaged

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Education and Child Care: Welfare Reform's Challenge

Bills May Shortchange Care, Advocates Fear

By Deborah L. Gold

WASHINGTON—As the Congress eyes legislation that would shift thousands of women off welfare rolls and into employment, child advocates are weighing its potential impact on a segment of the population they say is crucial to the proposals' success: the children of welfare recipients.

"Too frequently, child care gets put on the bottom of the list when [legislators] talk about the importance of education, training, and employment programs," said Mary Lee

Allen, director of child welfare and mental health for the Children's Defense Fund.

Despite increasing national interest in child-care issues, added Marjorie A. Kopp, policy analyst for the Child Welfare League of America, many lawmakers "are not really looking at what happens to the children

NEWS ANALYSIS

when they talk about sending mothers off to work" under welfare reform.

Children's advocates generally agree, however, that the welfare-reform legislation currently pending in the Congress would represent a significant advance over

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Who Will Fund, Train, And Ensure Results?

By Reagan Walker

WASHINGTON—Powerful social and political forces have converged to make welfare reform one of the top Congressional priorities in this Presidential election year.

But those same forces, some critics here are saying, may doom the final legislation to a status far short of the watershed many had hoped for.

Like the education-reform movement, the drive to overhaul the welfare system

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Censorship Decision Is Rapidly Coloring Other School Cases

By Kirsten Goldberg

Less than a month after the U.S. Supreme Court's decision expanding the power of school officials to regulate student speech, lower courts in three widely differing cases have cited the ruling in upholding the actions of school administrators.

The court decisions, which came less than a week apart, support a Florida school board's banning of a humanities textbook, a California principal's seizure of an "April Fool's" edition of a school newspaper, and a Nebraska school district's decision not to provide meeting space to a student Bible club.

A fourth court also briefly noted the High Court's decision in holding that districts can require student athletes to submit to random drug testing. (See related story, page 5.)

The cases are the first to cite the Court's Jan. 13 decision in *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier*, which backed a Missouri high-school principal's decision to prevent his school's student newspaper from publishing articles on divorce and teen-age pregnancy.

In that case, the Justices held 5 to 3 that administrators have broad authority to regulate student expression in school newspapers, theatrical productions, and other forums that are part of the curriculum.

Such speech may be censored, the Court said, if it conflicts with the school's "basic educational mission," if it is "inappropriate" for a young audience, or if it might be perceived as bearing the "imprimatur of the school."

Some of the lawyers involved in the three recent decisions said they believed the judges hearing their suits had been waiting

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Houston School Chief's 'Get Tough' Policy Will Send 40,000 to After-School Tutorials

By William Snider

Beginning this month, nearly 40,000 students in the Houston Independent School District will be required to give up nearly two hours a week of their free time to attend tutorial sessions in subjects they have failed to master.

Under a policy approved last month by the Houston Board of Education, students who refuse to attend the twice-a-week tutorials will fail their related courses.

The mandatory tutoring, officially termed the Required Academic Proficiency program,

will involve some 45 percent of the district's students in grades 6 through 12.

It is the most ambitious part of what Superintendent of Schools Joan Raymond describes as a new "get tough" policy—designed to address the fact that nearly half of the district's secondary-school students remain educationally at risk despite continuing intervention efforts.

"It seemed to me, in view of the fact that we have thousands of seniors who are at risk of not graduating this June, that we have a crisis here," Ms. Raymond said in an

Continued on Page 25



Joan Raymond

Also in the news

Drug Testing For Athletes Upheld

In a case believed to be the first of its kind, a federal judge has ruled that mandatory drug testing of school athletes does not violate their constitutional rights.

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Indian Coalition Seeks Control of Schools

An effort by Native American parents to have their own separate schools is raising political and constitutional questions in Minnesota.

6

Court To Rule on Unique Virginia Law

Bills that would repeal a law barring local school-board elections have been tabled, but a federal judge may soon decide the fate of the 81-year-old statute.

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Accuracy of Tests Debated by Experts

Concerned that test users are ill-equipped to interpret test results, the U.S. Education Department plans to publish a "consumer guide" to testing.

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NOTICE

Education Week's new address is 4301 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Suite 250, Washington, D.C. 20008. Telephone: (202) 364-4114.

IN SUMMARY

What Is Good for the Goose . . .
Districts' no-smoking policies should include teachers and administrators so that the right example is set for students, argues a group advocating "smoke free" schools. **Page 8.**

Report Card on Partnerships
A three-year study of school-business partnerships has found that they strengthen the role of business but are not effective in producing fundamental reforms in the educational system. **Page 9.**

Another Test in Texas
A new test for all students entering state colleges in Texas will replace a pre-professional exam for education majors that is the focus of a nationally watched federal lawsuit. **Page 10.**

A Scandal in New Jersey
The state department of education, investigating alleged corruption in its vocational division, is examining new charges that funds of student vocational clubs have been misspent. **Page 13.**

'Negotiated Rulemaking'
When it begins writing Chapter 1 regulations later this year, the Education Department, for the first time, will give those affected a chance to negotiate directly on the law's provisions. **Page 15.**

Controversial Rights Decision
In a move attacked by civil-rights groups, the Education Department last week said four formerly segregated state systems of higher education are now in compliance with federal law. **Page 15.**

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CONVENTIONS IN PRINT

An *Education Week* guide to the annual convention of the National Association of Secondary School Principals in Anaheim, Calif. **Begins opposite page 18.**

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ACROSS THE NATION

NATIONAL

Catholic Bishops Defend Response to Child Abuse

In the wake of accusations that it has failed to take action against priests who molest children, the national organization representing Roman Catholic bishops has issued a

defense of the church's commitment to fighting child abuse. A San Jose, Calif., newspaper charged in December that the church "continues to ignore and cover up" several cases of child molestation by priests.

In response last week, Mark E. Chopko, general counsel for the U.S. Catholic Conference, said in the organization's first public statement on the subject that the bishops were "deeply committed to addressing such

incidents positively, to making strong efforts to prevent child abuse, to repairing whatever damage has been done, and to bringing the healing ministry of the church to bear wherever possible."

The National Catholic Reporter has tallied 135 cases of sexual molestation by priests from 1983 to 1986; more than \$20 million was paid to the victims in civil suits, the paper reported.

STATES

Vermont High Court Bars Agency Fees for Teachers

The Vermont Supreme Court has ruled that teachers' unions and public-school districts cannot under state law enter into a collective-bargaining agreement that would require nonunion teachers to pay an agency fee in lieu of dues.

The Feb. 5 ruling "basically establishes a right-to-work law for Vermont teachers," said Martin Kaufmann, a spokesman for the National Right to Work Legal Defense Fund.

The group filed suit in 1985 on behalf of teachers in Burlington who opposed a contract provision requiring them to pay agency-shop fees even though they were not union members.

Under terms of the contract, the Burlington board of education automatically deducted roughly \$250 a year—85 percent of union members' annual dues—from their salaries, Mr. Kaufmann said. This money was then paid to the union.

The nonunion teachers argued that collection of agency fees was prohibited by the state's 1969 Labor Relations for Teachers Act, which states that "teachers shall have the right to or not to join, assist, or participate in any teachers' organization of their choosing."

Lawyers for the Vermont affiliate of the

National Education Association, however, argued that later legislation—the Municipal Labor Relations Act, which allows a municipal employer to enter into an agreement requiring that an agency fee be paid to the certified bargaining agent—superceded the earlier measure.

The court disagreed. It noted in its ruling that a provision in the later law specifically states that nothing in it "shall be taken to alter or repeal the provisions of [the 1969 Act]."

Texas Board Tightens Rules On State Compensatory Aid

The Texas Board of Education has tentatively approved new regulations aimed at making school districts more accountable for the \$350 million in state compensatory-education aid they receive each year.

The rules, approved at the board's January meeting, would require districts to develop detailed eligibility guidelines for their remedial programs, draft descriptions of the services provided, and coordinate the use of funds from state, federal, and other sources.

"I feel this approach can hold local districts accountable and, at the same time, maximize their flexibility," said William Kirby, the state commissioner of education.

Since 1975, when the state compensatory-education program began, districts have been granted broad latitude in using the funds, state officials said. The money is

allocated to districts with concentrations of low-income students.

The state's 1984 education-reform law included a six-fold increase in compensatory aid, leading some legislative leaders to call for stricter program standards.

Under the new rules, department officials would examine districts' compensatory efforts as part of the state's accreditation process. Districts would be required to review student progress periodically, and minimum achievement goals would be set by the commissioner.

■ **The North Dakota Supreme Court has ruled that school districts in the state must turn over the personnel files of public-school teachers to taxpayers wishing to inspect them.**

Under the state's open-records law, all "public and government records" are open to inspection by taxpayers unless specifically exempted by the legislature.

Therefore, the high court ruled Feb. 2, teachers' personnel files are open for inspection because the legislature has passed no measure closing them. The issue was raised last spring when a parent in the Hebron school district asked to see the personnel file of a high-school business teacher.

Lawyers for the teacher and the district "raised some strong public-policy arguments for the exception of teacher personnel records from the open-records law," the court stated in its ruling, but "such policy considerations are for the legislature."

'Gallery of Greats' Exhibit Honors Black Educators

A collection of original oil paintings honoring 12 black educators was unveiled in Washington last week as part of Black History Month.

The exhibit—"Gallery of Greats: Black Educators . . . Building the Foundation"—will tour the country for the next two years, after an initial showing at the U.S. Education Department. It was sponsored by the Miller Brewing Company and the National Alliance of Black School Educators.

Included among those honored are Carter Godwin Woodson, who devoted his life to teaching black Americans about their cultural heritage, founding the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and providing the impetus behind the designation of February as Black History Month; Ida Daniel Dark, a Philadelphia elementary-school teacher who has used music to help her pupils develop their potential despite social, economic, and mental handicaps; Erma Chansler Johnson, who has drawn minorities and women into the mainstream of society through her work as vice chancellor of human resources at Tarrant County Junior College in Fort Worth, Tex.; and John Hope Franklin, a preeminent historian who holds emeritus professorships at both the University of Chicago and Duke University.

In addition to several college educators, those honored include Mary Frances Berry, a member of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission and a former assistant secretary of education who is now on the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania; George J. McKenna, a Los Angeles high-school principal; Alain Leroy Locke, a philosopher and social critic who was the first black Rhodes Scholar in 1907; W.E.B. DuBois, the activist founder of the N.A.A.C.P.; and Wilson C. Riles, former state schools chief for California.



Ida Dark



John Hope Franklin



Carter G. Woodson



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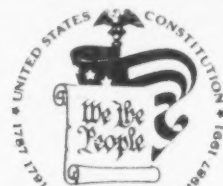
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